The following account was written by Robert Perry (Midland High Junior) and Madeleine Hong (Dow High Sophomore) who, along with teachers, Mary Hillman (MHS) and Cyndie Roberts (DHS), were the 2019 WE Are Innovators Challenge winners and awarded a service-learning trip to the Maasai Mara region of Kenya in June.

The profound impact of one journey.... Little did we know when we stepped off the plane 8,000 miles from home this past June that our perceptions about such basic things as water, education, and community would never, ever again be the same!

The mamas in the rural Maasai Mara region of Kenya are extremely powerful women, whose smiles and eyes reflect only genuine humility and kindness. Unlike the Maasai Warriors, the mamas aren’t experts at throwing a rungu or shooting a bow and arrow, but what these women accomplish each and every day for their families made them seem superhuman to us! With extremely limited access to any water (clean or otherwise), the mamas must embark on a water walk, often multiple times each day, to get water for cooking, bathing, washing clothes, watering their crops and keeping their animals alive. This water walk may entail walking ½ mile, a mile, 2 miles or however far it is from their home to the pond to fill their jerry can. Once the can is filled, the mamas tie the ends of a scarf around the can, and loop the scarf around their forehead, They then make their way back home on the treacherously rocky and rut-filled dirt “roads” carrying the 40-lb container of water on their backs. Our group was given the opportunity to mirror the mamas’ water walk. Luckily, we walked in pairs, helping each other adjust and readjust the load as it sloshed back and forth on our backs; most of us would never have been able to accomplish this task alone! This entire experience was mind-boggling to us, who carry our water easily in bottles, which we are able to refill frequently, most any time we wish. In addition to getting water, the Maasai mamas are responsible for building and taking care of their mud home, milking the cows, gathering firewood, cooking, maintaining the garden, and raising the children. As far as material possessions, it would seem that the mamas, (and the rural villagers in general), have virtually nothing. On the contrary, the mama’s role is vital to the Maasai family’s existence. The mamas are so happy, and the pride they feel for their accomplishments and their family is evident in their smiles, and that pride becomes their power!

Madeleine and Robert moving concrete at the WE College build site.

continued on page 2
In addition to the mamas, we met many incredible people on our journey. People from the village, teachers, and students who told us fascinating stories about their culture and who were equally as captivated about our life experiences. We all recognized our differences for what they are: differences, not barriers to forming lasting relationships. Kids love to play and be kids in any language, and laughter is laughter! The only toys in the school yard were two balls. Everyone was just as content as they could be!

We were also very fortunate to be sharing this fantastic opportunity with students and teachers from across the US, as well as from Egypt, Thailand, Mexico, and Algeria. Collectively sharing and developing our ideas about how to address local and global challenges was profound. Once again, culture and even language, were not roadblocks to collaborating for the common good. Successfully (and happily) working side-by-side with someone from across the globe on one of the sustainable programs that WE has established in Kenya to help lift people out of poverty was inspiring, and the experience has forever redefined our meaning of the word “community.”

District leaders Jennifer Servoss, Elementary Curriculum and Instructional Specialist; Melissa Toner, Instructional Technology and Media Curriculum Specialist; and Penny Miller-Nelson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment participated in the Inclusive Leadership Ambassadors Kenya 2019 Program sponsored by Dow Chemical, in partnership with the WE Organization.

This June 2019 experience provided an opportunity for collaboration and learning with others from around the world as a way to more deeply understand inclusion and diversity and to empower leaders to be change makers for positive impact in our schools and community. During this life-changing journey, the team witnessed powerful examples of communities and cultures shifting toward more inclusive practices. Leaders engaged with Maasai community members to understand their culture and how they are working to become more inclusive. Through the WE Organization’s sustainability work, women no longer spend their day carrying water from the river to support their family. The installation of water kiosks makes clean water more accessible. Women now have time to develop and utilize other skills, such as beading, to provide income for the family. This has increased the status of women in the community, as has the development of all-girl schools like Kisaruni, a school visited by the team. At Kisaruni, students inspired the team by sharing their school philosophy, which includes a commitment to being a community promoting leadership and valuing the diversity everyone brings to the school. The students also shared their educational and career aspirations, which had a profound impact on the team as females from the community were just recently allowed to attend college. The team also visited the WE College, which currently includes a School of Nursing and a School of Tourism. The Inclusive Leadership Ambassadors had the honor of working alongside community members and students to help build the new additions to the WE College as they plan to expand programming into the areas of Engineering and Agriculture. The cultural transformation of the community was a compelling example of the power of inclusion.

Each day the team collaborated with teachers, administrators and business executives from South Africa, Argentina, Louisiana, and New York, sharing strategic plans on inclusion and diversity and ideas for implementation. During workshop time our Midland administrative team, along with Dr. Amy Beasley, Dow North American Regional Inclusion Leader, and Lee Ann Keller Rouse, President and CEO of Omni Tech International, Ltd. were able to evaluate our current district inclusion and diversity plan, problem-solve and make decisions for future action and implementation. MPS is grateful for the opportunity and the ongoing support of Dow Chemical as we drive forward in our inclusion work.
In addition to the job openings on Page 5 of this Communique, BUS DRIVERS and PARAPROFESSIONALS are needed in our TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT for the 2019-20 School Year!

Interested in working with children? Want the same days off as your child? Consider becoming a member of the MPS Transportation Team!

Requirements:
- High school diploma or GED
- Pass criminal background check
- DRIVERS: Pass pre-employment drug test, physical/back assessment
- PARAS: Pass physical/back assessment & Work Keys

Additional Details:
- Flexible schedule
- AM & PM routes available
- No experience required
- Paid training
- Both Regular & Sub Drivers and Paraprofessionals are needed

Salary:
- Bus driver: $13.54/hour starting salary … within four years: $17.15/hour
- Paraprofessional/Sub Paraprofessional: $9.45

Want to know more?
- Contact MPS Transportation (923-5041) today for info or to apply!

Food Service Workers needed at MPS!!!
Several flexible schedules to choose from between 8-2 Monday-Friday (no weekends!). To apply, click on this link: www.compassgroupcareers.com

Under search jobs/keyword type in either Req. #304904 or 298892
Welcome back!
We are looking forward to greeting our 7,700 MPS students on the first day of school! See you ...
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3!

Need to enroll your child for the 2019-20 school year?

⇒ 4-Year-Old Preschool or Young 5’s Kindergarten:
Contact the Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School 923-6411.

⇒ Kindergarten-Grade 5: Elementary school offices are now open for the new school year!

⇒ Grades 6-12: Middle and High School offices are open and would be happy to register your child. See the last page of this Communique for school contact info.

We are still accepting Schools of Choice (SOC) applications for the 2019-20 school year, however, we have had to close some grades in some MPS schools because they are at capacity and others are getting very tight.

For MPS Schools of Choice information, contact Jana at 923-5024.

Check it Out!
Two Flyer Boards!

- **Student Flyers**: Fun activities, events and opportunities for students:
  [https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/)

- **Community Flyers**: Information and events that may be of interest to parents & adults:
  [https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers](https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers)

Check back often. Flyers are coming in all the time!

ALL MPS OFFICES ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

MPS elementary offices are open as of today and ready to assist you with any questions you may have about the 2019-20 school year. Because of bond construction, the Adams and Dow High office staffs have ‘set up shop’ at Siebert Elementary this summer. However, if you would like to call their staff, please use their regular phone numbers listed on page 5 of this Communique. We anticipate ADE and DHS will be back in their own offices sometime during the last week in August.

This week is the final week of MPS district-wide summer hours—four 10-hour days with all of our buildings closed on Friday. Next week (8/19) we return to our regular five-day work week.

Annual Notices — Per statue, the Midland Public Schools must notify stakeholders of applicable state and federal laws. All students and parents are expected to review and be knowledgeable of the information included herein annually. These annual notices are included in MPS student handbooks, located on each of the schools websites.

Here is the link to the Annual Notices information:

Wondering when you can view the 2019-20 bus schedules? As we have done for the past several years, the new bus routes will be included in the first Our Schools—the quarterly MPS newsletter that will be an insert in the Saturday, August 24, Midland Daily News.

The Midland Public Schools Admin. Center had a very special visitor last week—Luna—Central Park Elementary’s 8-month old Bernadoodle therapy dog. Luna even got to visit with two new Central Park Pioneers who recently moved to Midland from Tennessee.

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Join our Team

MPS Current Job Openings

Click on this link for current job postings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Posting End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Soccer, Boys’</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Swimming, Girls’</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach, Assistant, Wrestling</td>
<td>HH Dow HS</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Athletic Manager</td>
<td>Midland HS</td>
<td>08/13/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional, Office</td>
<td>Central Park ES</td>
<td>until filled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraprofessional (3 positions)</td>
<td>Adams ES</td>
<td>08/13/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MIDLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2015 BOND UPDATE
Week of July 29, 2019

Construction / In Progress:
Adams Addition & District Wide Renovations
- Installation of CMU block is 98% at Adams Elementary
- Installation of new water main and sanitary at Adams Elementary is ongoing
- Installation of new windows and doors to continue at Adams Elementary
- Casework installation at Adams Elementary is complete
- Structural Steel installation at Adams to continue
- Boilers at Adams Elementary are installed
- Grading continues at H.H. Dow High parking lot
- Installation of casework has started at Midland High Science Labs
- Ceiling grid installation has started at H.H. Dow High Science Labs
- Audio / Visual Systems being installed at all Media Centers

Look Ahead:
- Installation of corridor flooring at Adams Elementary
- New HVAC installation at H.H Dow High to continue
- Paint to start at Midland High locker room
- Parking lot paving at H.H. Dow High, Midland High, and Adams Elementary
- Epoxy floor installation at High School Locker Rooms
- Casework and floor installation at both High School Science Labs

Wisdom thought to ponder ...

“When you are enthusiastic about what you do, you feel this positive energy. It’s very simple…”
—Paulo Coelho